

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /118 W
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R 051133Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3759

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 10120

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, SF

SUBJECT: BRITISH OPPOSITION LEADER BANNED FROM ATTEN-
DING NAMIBIA TRIALS

1. ALEX LYON, M.P., OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN FOR HOME AFFAIRS WHO HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS TO ACT AS AN OBSERVER AT THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF AFRICAN LEADERS IN NAMIBIA, HAS BEEN PREVENTED FROM ATTENDING BY THE SAG. ACCORDING TO THE "GUARDIAN" OF SEPTEMBER 3, MR. LYON RECEIVED A LETTER LAST MONTH FROM THE SA MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR WHICH SAID THAT HIS EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENTS TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN. THIS IS A STANDARD DEVICE USED TO WARN PEOPLE REGARDED AS POTENTIALLY HOSTILE TO THE SAG THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE COUNTRY.

2. LYON IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "I ASSUME THAT THE SECURITY POLICE IN WINDHOEK SOMEHOW GOT ACCESS TO THE LETTERS I HAD SENT THE LAWYERS CONCERNING THE TRIALS AND I FEEL THEY MUST HAVE LISTENED INTO MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM.

"THE LETTER I HAVE RECEIVED EFFECTIVELY PREVENTS ME FROM ATTENDING THE TRIALS AND THIS MUST ONLY BE BECAUSE
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THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO SEE

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE TERRITORY AND BECAUSE THEY WISH TO DAMP DOWN ANY INTEREST IN AFFAIRS THERE AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS CLEARLY WIDESPREAD UNREST AMONG THE AFRICANS OF NAMIBIA."

3. THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY WOULD MAKE NO COMMENT ON THE MATTER BUT MR. PETER KATJAVIVI, SWAPO'S LONDON REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE BAN WAS ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO SUPPRESS INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTINUING POLICE HARRASSMENT OF THE OVAMBO PEOPLE AND THEIR POLITICIANS.
SOHM

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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